

Canada's Gay Community Magazine

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October 2008

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- *The King of Homoerotic Horror*

The Safer Space

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OUTLOOKS

Truly National!

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Top Design

Imagine that everything around us has a reason. You have probably heard of the idea that “form follows function”², a term coined by an architect in the early part of the twentieth century, suggesting that every object should be designed to fulfill the requirement of that object—made by man or nature.

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Sophie's Gay Best Friend

The character of Matt originated as Martin in the French series *Les Hautes et les bas de Sophie Paquin*, which the CBC adapted from a one-hour dramedy into their half-hour English comedy.

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Generation Q:

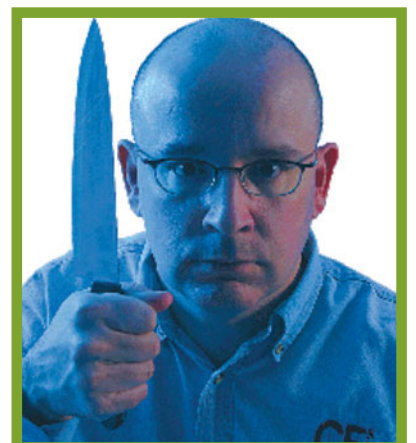
I think we have all asked ourselves, “Who am I?” but sometimes that question isn't enough. Sometime we must ask ourselves, “Who am I not?” This question is important, not for your foundation, but for your growth.

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The Greenroom

David Decoteau is a director who's carved out a loyal fan base for his films. What's his secret? Is it his recipe of films populated with supernatural forces and a cast of zombies, witches, werewolves and killer creatures that could rival the Brothers Grimm in imagination?

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Editor's Column



Human Rights issues that we have won could—and most likely would—be eroded or simply nullified by a majority Tory government. So the GLBT community has to take note and take action wherever possible to ensure that it does not become a majority government, or for that matter, a Conservative government.

Election 08

If someone on the street were to stop another passerby and ask, "What do you think of how the election is shaping up?" a majority of Canadians would respond with answers about the US Presidential contest, about lipstick on pigs, or the infamous bridge to nowhere. It's a sad statement on Canadian politics, but regrettably it is most likely true.

Our political pundits from coast to coast are now starting to predict that Stephen Harper and the Conservatives could, in fact, win a majority government.

And this is the *absolute worst-case scenario for the GLBT community!* Not only would it affect the issues on which our community activists are working, but it would also have a very real chance of setting our community back by decades.

When considered from coast to coast, we are a large voting block and can make our voices heard—so the election is not a done deal yet. We need to come together and vote as a block in order we can make a decisive difference in the election results.

When one looks at the individual campaigns across the country, some appear to be a done deal for the Conservatives—especially in Western Canada—but Harper can't win a majority with only the West behind him. He also needs to make strong inroads in both urban and rural ridings in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia. And there are six to eight cities where we can, and must, try to make the difference.

One needs to consider the Conservative party's philosophy in general. Remember, this Conservative party and its leader is essentially (no pun



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intended), the Reform Party of the past. It was the party from which Mr. Harper resigned because he regarded Preston Manning as *too moderate*. The “new” Conservative party has appeared to be moderate on the outside, but personally, I believe that is just a public smokescreen, useful until Harper was in a position to form a majority and move his Christian Right agenda forward. Remember, this Conservative government was elected the last time round partly because it made promises to numerous faith-based groups that it would impede the GLBT community as much as possible.

And one doesn’t have to look very far from the PM to see just how strong that connection still is and how it will likely play out in the future. In fact, all you have to do is look at the background of his office’s Director of Policy, Mr. Darryl Reid. Prior to accepting his position as Policy Chief, Mr. Reid was the former president of Focus on the Family Canada—a group very well known for its anti-gay agenda. Reid was a strong opponent to same-sex marriage and campaigned hard to prevent it from becoming a reality. Mr. Harper has voted against same-sex marriage every time the issue has been brought forward in one form or another (total of five times since 2003). So don’t fool yourself by thinking that re-opening this issue will not come to pass under a Tory majority.

And there are many other glimpses into his anti-gay agenda from the recent past.

- His appointment of David Brown to the Ontario Supreme Court—a man who, on numerous occasions, represented anti-gay and anti-abortion views
- He raised the age of consent from 14 to 16 even though numerous experts in the fields of Health and Law said it was a dangerous move because it made getting information on contraceptives and abortions even tougher for Canadian Youth.
- Let’s not forget the new rules for organ, blood, and bone marrow donations. For organ donation, you cannot have had sex with even one man in the past five years; and for the other donations the time line is even greater—you can’t have engaged in gay sex after 1977!

Let’s get back to what you and I can do about it. Both the Liberals and NDP are not fundamentally against us, as are the Tories, so these are parties whom we’ll be able to work with, over time.

Now, I appreciate that a number of our community may be card-carrying members of either the Liberal and NDP

party, but voting along party lines will not stop a Conservative majority. A vast number of leaders with influence in the gay community believe we need to make the process much simpler than that. They believe, and I agree, that it becomes a question of which candidate (Liberal or NDP) has the best chance to win or beat a Tory incumbent, and then to vote on mass for that candidate. And as I said at the beginning of this column, there are a number of ridings in which we can make that difference.

So, as we approach probably one of the most important elections in our lifetimes, we must educate ourselves about our candidates. Determine who has the best chance of winning or who is in second place to a Conservative candidate and then **get the vote out** on October 14th.

That’s the way I see it anyway...



Brett Taylor is the Publishing Editor of Outlooks Magazine. His 20 plus years in communications, marketing, and public relations includes numerous executive positions within both corporate and government sectors alike.



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TOP DESIGN



This article, my first of many yet to come, seems to be the ideal kick-off to the many topics, ideas and concepts that I will be writing about. My goal in teaming up with *Outlooks* and developing this column is to provide insight, information and opportunity to the Readers that will hopefully provide the background and tools to look at the world around us in very different ways than we have done before. Most of the time I will be writing about objects and experiences created by people, and experiences in the built environment, but who knows what else might come up? I am always open to suggestions, so please do

not hesitate to write to me with ideas. For my inaugural article and as a lead-in of what is to come, I want to start with an overview of how I look at the world and how I plan to cover a wide range of topics.

We are all surrounded by “design” and are influenced by well-designed and poorly designed products and environments all the time. Everything you use in the course of your daily life started out as an idea and had to be developed, modified, prototyped and budgeted before it came onto the market. When you start to really look around, you realize how amazing it is that all of this stuff exists! I encourage every one of you to see the world around you with your eyes wide open. It is amazing what you find when you actually take the time to look around. Look at nature for inspiration. Look at man-made objects and consider why they were designed the way that they were. Look in unlikely places. And, don’t just take what you see at face value. Consider the color, texture and weight.

Consider the form, the shadow it creates and how it feels to the touch—warm or cool? If the object is something that you interact with, think about the “ergonomics” (the applied science concerned with designing and arranging things people use so that the people and things interact most efficiently and safely¹) of the object. Why was it designed this way? Does it work the way it is supposed to? It is comfortable to use? Does it appear to be over designed—are there aspects of the object that are unnecessary? Consider the aesthetics of the object. What do you like about the shape, color, feel, scale and overall “look”? What don’t you like?

Imagine that everything around us has a reason. You have probably heard of the idea that “form follows function”², a term coined by an architect in the early part of the twentieth century, suggesting that every object should be designed to fulfill the requirement of that object—made by man or nature. Next time you grab a

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door handle, think about it. Why is it shaped the way that it is? Does it work well? Does it do what it needs to do and is its function intuitive? Do you like the way it looks? Next time you use a glass door with a pull/push bar on either side—that gives no indication of whether you are to push or pull the door—ask yourself why the designer didn't provide a better clue as to how to use the door (one of my pet peeves). Obviously, to that designer, the form was much more important than the function.

So, think about some common objects in your life.

Go sit in your favourite chair. Give some thought to the shape, scale, slope of the back, height (of the seat and back), support, fabric, stuffing, seams and appearance. Why is it your favourite chair? Is it the how it looks or how it sits? If you could change one thing about it, what would that be?

Put on your favourite shoes. Think about why this pair is your favourite. The shape, fit, material, heel, color or simply what they look like? Are they comfortable, or do you wear them simply because they are a hot looking pair?

Now, think about what you need to bring along when you travel. For example, with the crackdown on what you can carry on to a flight, consider everything related

to what you can bring with you and store on an airplane: the size of the overhead and the size of the bag you can fit into the bin; the amount of clothing you can fit into your bag; the amount of space under the seat in front of you for a backpack, so the limits of the bag you can store under there; and even the size of containers for your toiletries. As a traveler, you have to choose all of these storage pieces to meet the demands of your lifestyle, the length of your trip and of course, your personal aesthetic! So when you look at your carry-on, think about why you bought it. Did you buy it for looks? Price? Brand name? Function? Durability?

Regardless of the product, what you choose to purchase is ultimately is a reflection of who you are, your personal style and what you value (function, style, price?).

Finally, since we will be looking at a whole lot of interiors and the stuff in them, I challenge you to think about your favourite, and least favourite, spaces when you are in them. So the next time you are in your house/favourite restaurant/favourite store/gym/spa/bar/club/hotel/whatever, take a look at the scale, proportion, color, materials, views, openness, coziness—basically, everything around you—and try to figure out why you respond to the space the

way that you do. I also encourage you to do the same thing when you are reading your favourite design magazines. As you skim the photographs, really look at the images and think about why you like or dislike what you see. This exercise is something we have every one of our clients do after our introductory discussion and before our second meeting to review the formal scope-of-work for their project. If you have a partner, it will be interesting for the two of you to compare notes. You may be surprised by what you discover! I look forward to hearing your comments!

To get you started, I have attached a couple of pictures of some of my favourite things (okay, the list is really a mile long, so this is just a “sampling”). Enjoy! See you next month! ▼

By Robert Reid

Robert is a licensed interior designer originally from New Brunswick, now based in Texas. With a Master of Science degree in Interior Design from the prestigious PRATT Institute in New York City, Robert has a diverse design background that includes award-winning interiors projects around the world, product design for international markets, graphic design, acting in and writing design-specific television programs, and has taught undergraduate university design studio courses.



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¹ Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary. 2008.
² Attributed to architect Louis Sullivan.

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This has been my favourite lamp since I was a teenager. Designed in 1972 (!), it was designed so that the power is transferred through the arms to the bulb, and it is adjustable in almost every direction. I received mine as a Christmas gift when I was twenty, and it has moved with me to every place I have lived since then. Love it!

www.artemide.com

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The SAFER

In an age when PHAs live increasingly longer, more fruitful lives, the fear factor around their status reigns supreme, despite their increasing need for the social structure inherent to a healthy and fulfilling life. When it comes to disclosure (for those poz or neg), the proverbial closet still remains the safest space.

A quick login to an online chatroom easily reveals just how ostracized PHAs remain from potential friends and lovers within our own queer community. Recently scanning postings on one major gay site, an HIV+ friend confided just how just much his self-esteem nosedived perusing the blatantly anti-HIV comments he found in half the main chat room's profiles. As he concluded, we live in a "drug, drama and disease free" social network where disclosure has somehow taken more focus than sheer responsibility. Which only leads to one question: are the same folk avoiding hook-ups with HIV+ individuals any safer hooking up for a romp with someone allegedly negative?

"People are hiding their status in general," reports AIDS Community Care Montreal (ACCM) caseworker Ginette Tremblay, "and it prevents us from even saying there are people around us who are HIV, and that they are human beings just like us." A staff member at ACCM for over a dozen years, Tremblay mentions that disclosure is such a recurring theme that it's regularly a part of her dialogue with others. "It's a very hard subject to approach," she notes, "and aside from a need for responsibility, one can always expect a reaction to disclosure. The key is to acknowledge it, and to give the other person a chance to think about it and negotiate it."

Having stumbled upon a safe haven at a monthly poz gathering, my dateless friend admits he didn't find Mr. Right there, but he did walk away with something far more important to him: his dignity. He is not alone; as Tremblay notes, ACCM is one of several non-profit HIV/AIDS groups increasingly organizing poz gatherings across Canada. ACCM first introduced its **Positive Mingles** social five or six years ago to respond to its members' needs for safer spaces to mix, meet and mingle, without the anxieties surrounding disclosure. Tremblay played

a big role in getting it off the ground.

"The first one was in a bar in the summer," reflects Tremblay, "and it didn't work because everyone who knew each



other sat with each other and didn't mingle. Eventually there was a white and red band for those seeking friendship; white black and red meant you were looking for fun, etc. It worked out well and people started to mingle - over 100 started to show up, including visitors from outside of Montreal."

"People are hiding their status in general ... and it prevents us from even saying there are people around us who have HIV, and that they are human beings just like us."

At one time organized by ACCM three times a year, Positive Mingles' success prompted the need for other organizers within the HIV community to step in and take over its coordination from the busy non-profit group. It happened three years ago with Montreal's **Poz Party**, when an ACCM client and his two friends took the initiative to reserve a bar for monthly club nights, more recently turning them into happy hour events.

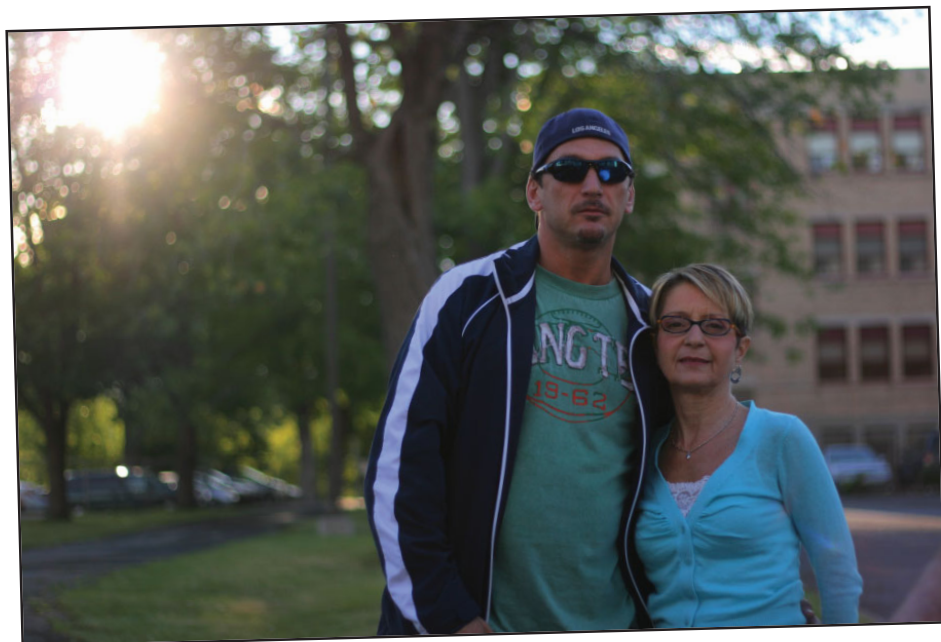
"Poz Party allows people to be in a public place and not feel different than others," says Tremblay. "For those tired of going to the usual bar, or those suffering from a change in their image [i.e. atrophy], this is a positive-friendly

Space

environment where they don't feel like they are offending anyone, or are being judged or frowned upon. When people come to me newly HIV+, a big phase they go through is that they don't want to have sex or feel people will reject them. I tell them to go—that they may meet people who are going through the same thing, without feeling that rejection. A lot of guys are looking for friendship and partnership, and not being judged is a big advantage.”

As Tremblay observes, the success of Poz Party has led to less frequent Positive Mingles nights for ACCM, who now combine their event with Poz Party to keep their focus on the usual weekly drop-ins, guest lectures, summer BBQs, holiday season open house, bowling and

circulate announcements on event locations, often at the club Tools, including happy hour events. Tremblay notes that in her experience, most people who go are poz, while others are simply poz friendly. As Tremblay concludes, Poz Party is of course not the only solution to a healthy social life for PHAs, nor does it mean an opportunity for unprotected sex considering there are various strains of HIV. As Tremblay recently observed helping to organize other events at ACCM, comfort can come from the most unlikely of sources. ACCM events, like “Positively Living” and “The Spirituality Group,” allow social interaction on a wide range of concerns, such as nutrition, emotional health, the spirituality surrounding mortality and of course medication.



ice-skating parties. Monday night Dinner & Discussion Evenings have featured topics such as “Goal Setting,” “Love & Relationships,” and “Aging as a Gay Man,” while The “Poz Sexuality Library” at ACCM contains books and videos on the subject of sexuality. For Tremblay, it's all a part of giving PHAs the healthy life they deserve, and that includes social interaction.

“We have to get away from this fear,” says Tremblay. “People who are positive are concerned about infecting others, about being judged. HIV needs to come out of the closet, perhaps even take to the streets to say ‘we're here and we're going to be here’. Right now, not enough people are ready to do that. People have a lot of misunderstanding—for some still about shaking hands. It's also not in the media much anymore, and so it's almost like it's not there again.”

Poz Party is usually held the second or third Saturday of each month. In order to advertise, queer media, community posters and ACCM's website help

“Once a month we try to have a movie,” says Tremblay, “and I've noticed there's a certain warmth in that room. There is a nice human contact, like a close-knit family sitting together enjoying a movie. Sometimes people need that more any lecture we can provide for them.”

For more information on ACCM or Poz Part, contact ACCM at 514.527.0701 or visit accmontreal.org.partypoz.com ▼

By David King

David King is founding Artistic Director of Montreal's Out Productions (out.ca), a freelance arts, culture and travel writer, and Contributing Editor of 2B Magazine.



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- 1996** Liberal government adds “sexual orientation” to the Canadian Human Rights Act, an anti-discrimination law that applies to federally regulated activities.
- 2000** Liberal government passes the Modernization of Benefits and Obligations Act, granting equal rights to homosexual common-law couples.
- 2003** Liberal government passes Bill C-38, extending equal access to civil marriage for same-sex couples.
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Authorized by Peggy Kim, Official Agent

Four Outrageously Funny Ladies!

Whoever coined the phrase “laughter is the best medicine” definitely struck gold when referencing the multi-talented Sandra Bernhard, Margaret Cho, Kathy Griffin and Lily Tomlin. The hysterical antics of these wickedly witty comediennees could undoubtedly cure any of the blues that dare to ail you. And since each one of these fabulously funny artists has performed locally within the past six months, some of us lucky Torontonians are still showing off our well-earned laugh lines with mucho pride.

Although each of these uniquely gifted, politically astute, comedic divas can be as silly and/or as provocative as the next one, their common ground is their core gay audience and its immensely loyal support—for which these gals are clearly appreciative. You’d be hard-pressed to find four more willing performers so eager to give back to the community via their appearances at fundraisers, benefits, telethons and other worthy charitable events that steer much-needed funds toward important gay, and other humanitarian, causes. When it comes to winning awards, collectively these four highly skilled gals have raked in enough major hardware to start a scrap metal shop! Seriously, their nearly unending list of acknowledged achievements includes well-deserved kudos for writing, directing, performing, authoring books, lifetime career recognition, et cetera, et cetera. So, is it any wonder that our tasteful community embraces each one of them with such warmth, affection and loud peals of uncontrollable laughter?



Sandra Bernhard is arguably the most acerbic comedienne within this group. Her acid-tongued delivery guarantees that her quips will hit their intended targets with a perfect bulls-eye every time. Her sarcasm cuts like a knife, and her tongue is sharp enough to clip a hedge. She is

an equal blend of passion, vitriol, satire and irony. And frankly my dear, we wouldn’t want her any other way, would we?

Her appearance at Toronto Pride proved to be a major love-in for the hard-partying worshipers in the audience. However, a less than awestruck

Although each of these uniquely gifted, politically astute, comedic divas can be as silly and/or as provocative as the next one, their common ground is their core gay audience and its immensely loyal support—for which these gals are clearly appreciative.

newspaper critic took her to task in his review for not knowing that Canada’s provinces are headed by Premiers instead of Governors. (Fair enough—a little homework never hurt anyone.)



Now thanks to the digital world, we can savour Sandra’s iconic film performance in *The King of Comedy*, along with her numerous appearances on such TV shows as: *Roseanne*, *Ally McBeal*, *Will and Grace*—and more—for years to come. But to really appreciate her comic excellence, her individual style of ranting and raving, and her unique “stream of consciousness” musings, you must experience Sandra live!

As for the politically incorrect, **Margaret Cho** is the ultimate performer: fearlessly willing to “go there” while refusing to take any prisoners. (Her hilarious response to a heckler was essentially a verbal decapitation!) Margaret’s off the wall observations are a mixture of sassy gay sensibility and savvy political relevance. So whether it’s her animosity for Washington’s current decision makers, exposing society’s absurdities and hypocrisies, riffing on

“dwarf-fisting” or her hilariously screeching impersonation of her beloved mother, Margaret will have you laughing like a hyena by the end of her show.

She can also be found on your TV screens once again, thanks to her brand spanking new “reality sitcom” entitled *The Cho Show*, which marks her gutsy return to that medium following the debacle of her previous stab at small-screen immortality with *All-American Girl*. Or



check out the line-up for Cindy Lauper’s awesome True Colours Tour, benefiting the Human Rights Campaign, because Margaret occasionally shows up, schedule permitting, to perform as the concert’s guest emcee.

The loose-lipped **Kathy Griffin** is certainly no stranger to controversy. Hello? How about that headline-making scandal she provoked last year with her speech at the Last Supper? (Oops, I meant Emmy Awards!) Which makes me wonder...does she intentionally court notoriety? Or does it simply follow her around like a shadow? Either way, I doubt it much matters since Kathy’s recent, sold-out appearance had her adoring audience rolling raucously in the aisles and gasping for air, as she feverishly dished out celebrity-bashing anecdotes that roasted Hollywood’s A-Listers. Some of her jokes were so devilishly sinister that even printing them might be libellous!

But did our favourite *My Life on the D-List* starlet stop there? Nope! Instead, she covered every conceivable topic worth mentioning during an amazing show that ran a solid two hours and fifteen minutes—sans intermission. It was virtually a marathon of jokes and jabs that kept the audience spellbound from start to finish.

In other news, Anderson Cooper is apparently a really big fan of Kathy’s too...so maybe there’s hope for him yet!

Last, but never least, we come to the goddess of comedy herself, **Lily Tomlin**: superb actress, cerebral performer, champion of women’s rights and respected community spokesperson. And whether she’s *Appearing Nitely*, *Searching for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*, providing heart-warming narration for the HBO documentary *The Celluloid Closet*, garnering acclaim on TV’s *Murphy Brown*, *The West Wing* or *The Simpsons*, this gal just doesn’t quit!

And now she’s back on the road again where her uniquely memorable characters inhabit their slice-of-life surroundings in concisely written narratives that are layered with meaningful subtext within their clearly-defined beginning, middle and end structure. And Lily’s captivatingly perfect performance ensures her audience an unforgettable journey that comes full circle. No improvisation for this gal, just finely nuanced comedy at its absolute rib-tickling, meaningful best!



I love the sketch wherein she informs her mother that she’s just been cast to play a heterosexual in a leading film role. Then, after pausing briefly, she says soothingly, “No Mom, I don’t have to be one to play one.” Two other vintage Lily lines are: “I always wanted to be somebody, but now I realize I should have been more specific” and...“The road to success is always under construction.”

Yes indeed, not only are these four outrageously funny ladies brilliant comedic gems and cherished community treasures, they are beacons of hope and tolerance as well! ▼

By David King

David King is founding Artistic Director of Montreal’s Out Productions (out.ca), a freelance arts, culture and travel writer, and Contributing Editor of 2B Magazine.



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Sophie's *Gay* Best Friend

"Who doesn't have a gay best friend these days?" asked actress Natalie Brown when her CBC series *Sophie* was first unveiled, referring to the character of Matt, Sophie's gay best friend.

"Oh, another gay best friend," was the response from many critics, who rolled their eyes and yawned. But then the show aired and the character of Matt, as played by Canadian actor Jeff Geddis, came to life.

Matt wasn't just a stereotypical character, but rather, he represented the maturation of gay characters on television—fully realised in every aspect, Matt was a successful doctor who had an active love and sex life that he wasn't coy about.

"I found Matt to be a very charming character, and I tend to gravitate towards those characteristics in any of the roles I play," Geddis says from Montréal during a break in shooting the show's second season. "It's a little bit quirky which is kind of fun—those are some of the things that I responded to. And I think generally speaking I just kind of 'got' the tone of what they were looking for, for the show, and so the rest is kind of history."

The character of Matt originated as Martin in the French series *Les Hautes et les bas de Sophie Paquin*, which the CBC adapted from a one-hour dramedy into their half-hour English comedy. The series creator, Richard Blaimert, himself

response has been pretty favourable. I think Matt is generally a pretty positive person who is a positive role model in Sophie's life, and this is something that we've been trying to maintain."

This "down the middle" approach has carried through in Matt's relationship with Sophie's Swiss neighbour Verner, including the fact that Matt cheated on him early in the relationship. Instead of moralising or coping to a stereotype of gay male promiscuity, the writers treated the situation with nuance and depth.

"The stereotype of promiscuity in the gay culture—it's in all cultures," Geddis says. "People have question marks, they have second thoughts, they have second guesses, we have something called 'cold feet' in the world." This notion is the very premise of *Sophie*, where the title character had an affair of her own and has a mixed race child despite her fiancé having believed it was his.

"Even good, strong, heroic characters are going to have dilemmas," Geddis

says. "They're going to have moral dilemmas, they're going to make choices sometimes that even the viewing audience in its entirety won't necessarily agree with, but that's the whole point. You're supposed to challenge people, you're supposed to present ideas that a lot of people, whether directly or indirectly can relate to. I think that's really important."

As an actor, Geddis is relishing working on the second season. "We've been picked up for eighteen [episodes] this time around so the morale is really high right off the bat," he says. "The scripts have been really strong, and everyone had the benefit of the first season to get to know each other and get comfortable, so now it kind of feels like it's in you—you're no longer trying to find it. You feel strong in the character, and you feel like the show is being written for what you've



brought as opposed to you trying to find what's already on paper."

"That's a fun feeling, to know that every script I get now is being written for me."

Sophie airs Wednesday nights on CBC starting October 1. ▼



By Dale Smith.

Dale is a freelance journalist in Ottawa. His blog is at gallerynotes.blogspot.com.



a gay man, was tired of writing gay characters who were coming out and had difficulty dealing with their sexuality.

"I think it's important that he's alive," Blaimert says. "We talk about the fact that he has sex and that he does things."

The frankness of Matt's character is something that appeals to Geddis as an actor.

"The biggest thing for me is that I wanted to make Matt very real and relatable," Geddis says. "I think we see all kinds of presentations of gay men on television and in film, and there are some stereotypes that we see, but for the most part I wanted to keep Matt to just be as relatable as possible to just about anyone watching the show, be it gay, straight or otherwise. I wanted to just get it right down the middle and I think I've managed to do that pretty well, and I think the

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As cool temperatures are fast approaching, the warm oasis of Palm Springs is the choice for Gay Travelers looking for a great escape.

With plenty of events to celebrate, Halloween, Gay Pride Weekend on November 1 & 2, New Years or Palm Springs International Film Festival January 6 - 19. It's always comforting to know I have just the place to stay in Palm Springs.

When I travel to this gay-friendly mecca (estimated at a 40% gay population), I always call my friends Kirk Harris and Bill Butler at Sun and Fun Vacation Rentals. They offer the ideal lodging choices in this sun-drenched wonderland.

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Although rest and relaxation is the primary focus, when adventure strikes, I forfeit one day to explore the multitude of outdoor alternatives, including mountain hiking, biking, golfing, tennis, and the Aerial Tramway. Taking a stroll in the downtown Palm Springs area, brimming with wonderful boutiques, shops and restaurants is always a delight.

When the sun goes down it's easy to find a hotspot "Bongo Johnny's", or party central "Hunters". Both can be found along the gay party block of Arenas Road.

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Martha D. Sanchez
Freelance Writer

Book Review:

I Still Have a Suitcase in Berlin

I Still Have A Suitcase in Berlin, the latest novel from Halifax author, Stephens Gerard Malone, is both a gay love story set in 1930's Berlin and a cautionary tale for the present time.

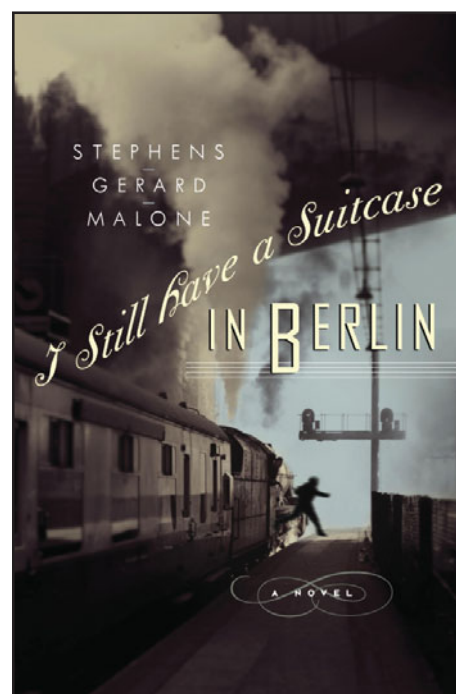
When Michael Renner sets out from Halifax to visit his grandmother in Germany, he has no idea of the profound impact that the trip will have on his life. Amid the swirling hedonism that thrived in Berlin, where intellectuals, socialists, artists and people of indeterminate sexuality freely and joyfully mingled, Michael meets Jan, the young man who will become his first real love and his obsession. The novel is in some ways a coming out story, although Michael does not use names like gay or straight and is confused by the nature and depth of his feelings for Jan.

Michael is an innocent in a milieu where the quick-witted and cynical flourish, but it is his very innocence which protects him at first as Michael's free-wheeling adopted city begins to change. A bullying patriotism makes a subtle entrance into the lives of Germany's citizens. Michael, used to the domineering control of his father and pushed into an arranged marriage with his boss's daughter, barely notices the changes until it is his beloved Jan who is at risk. The threat to Jan leads Michael to make a decision that will affect the lives of everyone he knows.

Malone spent years researching and investigating the time period of the novel, but at one point nearly abandoned the whole project, unsure what relevance a story set in the past would have for modern readers. "Then came 9/11. In the aftermath followed the arrests, imprisonment in offshore camps and torture, secret courts, racial profiling, minority and civil rights legislated away with barely a whisper of objection. Damn it, I was writing about my own time. More so, on a global scale, history was repeating. *I Still Have A Suitcase in Berlin* was suddenly more than a love story."

Malone intentionally avoided putting historical figures such as Hitler into the novel. "I didn't really want to get into the times and the political intrigue. I wanted to show what it would be like to

be living at the time, to be an everyday person in Berlin." One of the great strengths of the novel is this ability of the author to realistically create for us the atmosphere where incremental changes to the society barely register and each person's struggle to survive leads to indifference about the fate of others. Malone echoes the famous statement of Martin Niemöller, a concentration camp survivor: "When they come for you, who will be left to speak?"



While much has been written about the attempted genocide of the Jews and the imprisonment in camps of many groups, a certain indifference has existed until very recent times about the persecution of homosexuals and lesbians under the Nazi regime. As Jan says, "Sweetheart stories aren't written for people like us."

That was true until now. ▼

By Ralph Higgins.

Ralph is a writer, columnist and book/movie reviewer living in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia.



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Generation Q:

"Thoughts from the 21st Century Gay"

A Life by Your Design

Alright, so this is my first column for *Outlooks* and it feels like an evolutionary process for me—these past few years have been a constant process of transition and instability. And, while transition is okay, I am over the instability. I am ready for a new life. I am gliding into new terrain as, I hope, a more developed creature. I'm a butterfly! In my introductory article, I hope to reveal a little about me and I hope that you can also discover a little about yourself.

To begin anew is a wonderful feeling. Just to say, "uh, no, that is not me, but this is," can strip any chains that hold us back. As gay and trans folk, we are mystical creatures—don't laugh. Seriously, we are magical. We get to begin a new life whenever we are ready to tell the world that we aren't quite like them—we're better! Kidding. Kind of. But we are *reborn*—excuse me Pastor Graham while I borrow that word. And this new life that we find is only better and truer than the previous.

So here I am: I'm not a Dear Abby, not a Dr. Phil, and hell no! not a Dr. Laura, but am someone who goes through many, and I mean many, of the random messes that life likes to shoot at us. I actually find pleasure in searching and researching methods of fixing "life things" (excuse my formal jargon) when broke. Buddha knows I have a grocery list of broken "life things" and do not aim to preach, however, I have had success in fixing plenty of personal "life things" and like to give and receive (yes, I went there) ideas that work. It's a win-win here people.

For many, coming out is something that we would like to believe does not change us, "we are still the same person," we say. And for many this is true. But for the rest, this safe sentence is a guise in which we want to hide behind because we aren't sure what being gay means, or we haven't figured out how being gay translates to the 2.0 version of ourselves, because who really has the energy anymore to figure out who they "truly" are? It's tough, but as gay people we are afforded a window of opportunity to show our true selves especially after the often ground-breaking blow of saying, "I'm gay." Whether you came out forty years ago, five years ago,

or yesterday, take the time to ask yourself these questions. Or, if you are still surreptitiously lurking in the closet, imagine a life that could be by using these questions as guidelines:

How does being gay make you a truer form of yourself in our society?

What hidden qualities about you could be unleashed more easily post-closet?

What isn't working for you post-closet?

What is working for you and how can you capitalize on it, that is, how can you take advantage of your uniqueness?

I think we have all asked ourselves, "Who am I?" but sometimes that question isn't enough. Sometime we must ask ourselves, "Who am I **not**?" This question is important, not for your foundation, but for your growth.

The "who am I?" is your foundation, it lays down the framework for your life and answers questions like: What components create my soul mate? Where is "home"? What am I truly meant to do in life?

The "Who am I not?" helps you uncover the qualities of yourself or your life that are preventing you from growing. These qualities can be tangibles such as energy-draining friends, house clutter or that broken dryer. They can also be intangible like low self-esteem, addictions, or selfishness. "Who am I not?" removes the dirt, the linoleum floors, the 70s wallpaper. If the "who am I?" is the perfect garden with the roses and hydrangeas, sunflowers and ferns, then the "who am I not?" are the sections of the garden that start to clutter the beauty and tamper with the perfection, i.e. the weeds, snake holes, infestations.

Take some time to relearn yourself. I have one exercise for you to do to help this process of self discovery:

Step one: Name something in your life that you would like to change. This is called "the issue".

Step two: Answer why this situation is the way it is. This is called "the explanation".

Step three: Now with your answer write in front of you, write down the reality of the issue. Why is the issue really the way it is? This is called "the truth".

Example 1:

The issue: I wish I were thinner.

The explanation: I don't have time to work out.

The truth: I constantly choose to go out drinking with friends when I could be using that time to take care of my body.

Example 2:

The issue: I hate my job.

The explanation: I wish I had a different job but the economy is horrible so I wouldn't be able to find a better job anyway.

The truth: I'm scared to follow my passion because I don't have anything to fall back on.

Example 3:

The issue: I wish my relationship with my boyfriend was more fulfilling.

The explanation: We are just busy and under so much stress so we don't have much time to appreciate each other.

The truth: He isn't the right person for me but I have no one else so I can't leave him.



This simple exercise wakes us up to our truest existence and forces us to stare squarely into the life we chose. Try to think of ten issues in your life and allow yourself to give the explanation and then dig for the truth. If we are brave enough to face these truths, we will own those choices and let our truths guide our lives and relationships to a more authentic place.

So, what materials in your life are still waiting to be designed into haute couture? It's your choice. Make your list with me and let's see if we can attract all the things we want in life. Thanks for riding along. As for this butterfly, I have to figure out what to do with this fugly cocoon. ▼

Progressively yours,

Brandon Rolph

Brandon Rolph is a 22 year-old activist, writer, student and performer living in Los Angeles.

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Thoughts from the Hill



by Dale Smith

This month's question:

What do you see as the major issue for GLBT voters in this election, and how does your party plan to address it?

NDP MP Bill Siksay (Burnaby-Douglas, BC): I think the key issue in this campaign for the GLBT community is who do you trust to make sure that there's no backsliding on any of the gains that we've made in the past years. I think there's a huge gap of trust between the GLBT community and the Conservatives and Prime Minister Harper. I think that that's something that causes us lots of anxiety and rightly so. We've seen that he's backed away from some of the issues that we were concerned that he might raise again when he was elected, and I think that we're all worried that if he has an outright majority that there may be real

cause for concern, that they will again bring us back to the great debates about marriage and other aspects of GLBTT rights. I think that's the key thing. I think with Jack Layton, the GLBTT community knows that they have a strong advocate and outspoken supporter and that he is someone that the community trusts, and I think that that is very important to remember.



... there are so many issues whereby the Conservatives have been absolutely totally consistent in their opposition of basic rights and equality that it's tough to identify one as being paramount.

Conservative Senator Nancy Ruth (Ontario - Cluny): I think one of the things the Conservative government has tried very hard to do during the past two-and-a-half years is to apply things universally rather than to specific groups. The tax cuts are an example of that. It has a universal impact. When you ask me a question about a particular group in terms of 'what has the government done,' there's not much to respond to. In terms of LGBT or any other group—I'm not sure it's necessarily the role of government. Governments historically are not those that expand human rights. They are actors that

respond to pushes within Canadian society. For example, Paul Martin and gay marriage was very much a reaction to the fact that the courts had already made the decision and he was being pushed into it. It was not something he initiated. To have that expectation about government is not legitimate. LGBT people have to push for what they want. ▼

This month our Queer Parliamentary Panel looks to the fortieth general election, currently underway. Voting day is October 14th so make sure you go out and cast your ballots!



Governments historically are not those that expand human rights. They are actors that respond to pushes within Canadian society.

Liberal MP Hon. Scott Brison (Kings-Hants, Nova Scotia): There are so many issues that are important. Steven Harper has been a poster-child of socially regressive government. When it comes to rights issues, whether it's the Court Challenges Programme, the Harper government opposition to same-sex marriage, the Reform Party's historic opposition even to same-sex benefits, on the blood donor or organ donor issue—there are so many issues whereby the Conservatives have been absolutely totally consistent in their opposition of basic rights and equality that it's tough to identify one as being paramount. I think the biggest issue for gays and lesbians is how do we unite with other progressive voters to defeat the Harper government? That's the fundamental question, and because the

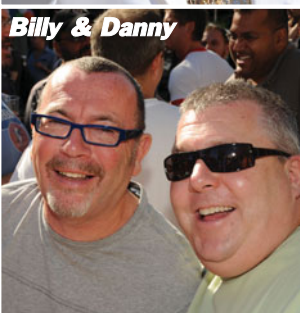
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I think there's a huge gap of trust between the GLBT community and the Conservatives and Prime Minister Harper. I think that that's something that causes us lots of anxiety and rightly so.

Dale is a freelance journalist in Ottawa. His blog is at gallerynotes.blogspot.com.

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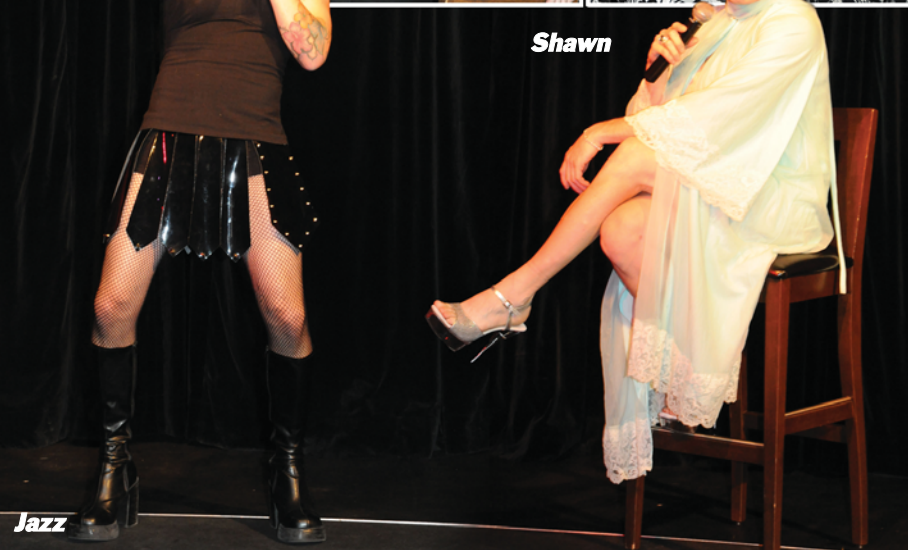
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August 29 at Majestic



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The Greenroom

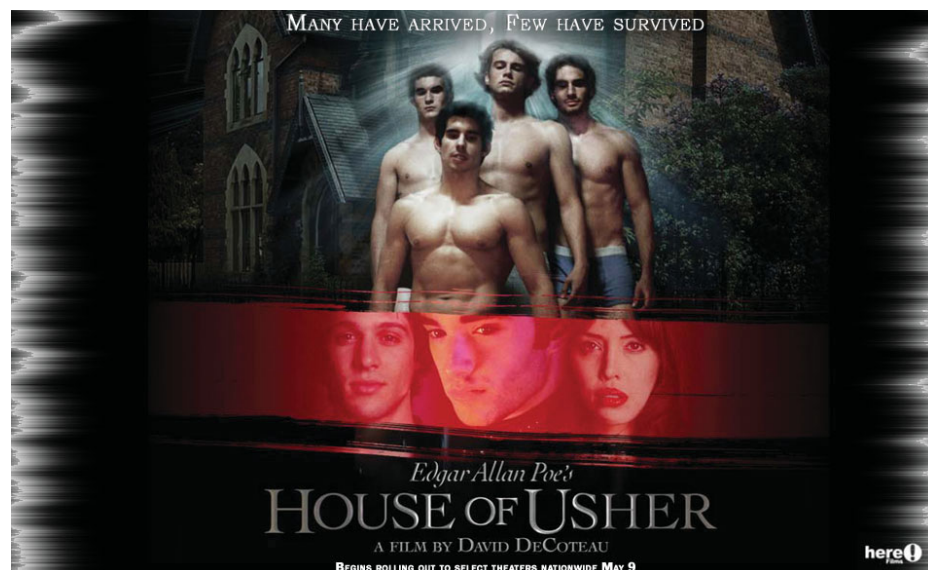
with Charlie David



Charlie David photo courtesy: brent dundore photography <http://www.brentdundore.com>

David Decoteau is a director who's carved out a loyal fan base for his films. What's his secret? Is it his recipe of films populated with supernatural forces and a cast of zombies, witches, werewolves and killer creatures that could rival the Brothers Grimm in imagination? Is it a turning tide of horror fans interested in seeing the guys running for their lives instead of the formulaic femme fatale? Or is it the guys themselves who haunt the audience's dreams and have them heading back to the video store for more?

Did I mention that the previously mentioned beefcake will most likely be acting shirtless and often in their underwear? Hey, it's October! My suggestion is to grab some friends, pour pumpkin spiced martinis, and play a little game. Have a drink every time an actor dies, mentions a witch, werewolf or supernatural force, or takes his shirt off. You'll all be plastered by the end of the film and will most likely be down to your underwear as well.



David is a hands-on director involved in the casting of his films and his keen eye hasn't failed him yet. His male leads are buff, pretty boys who pout, sneer and cast long sideways glances at each other that linger just long enough to have one question their intentions. The testosterone and homoeroticism are so palpable in his films that the pheromones will be dripping from your DVD player by the time you're through one of his homo-horror extravaganzas.

I had the pleasure of sitting down with David in Los Angeles for a five-hour lunch recently. I'm sure he had places to be, considering he's just signed a two-series, ten-film deal with Regent Entertainment to be delivered over the next two years. Yes, you read those figures correctly. Two television series, ten films, two years. Is that even possible? With a resumé that boasts well over fifty titles, Decoteau has perfected the art of what he calls the

"Four Day Wonder"—he shoots out an entire film script in four days. Those working in the film industry of Canada have probably seen and been amazed by the twelve or eighteen day schedule of low budget independents, but David is churning them out at an Olympian sprinter speed. The slate will include more installments of his infamous Brotherhood franchise as well as new films inspired by the stories of Edgar Allen Poe. I watched a screener of *House of Usher* and *The Raven* and they are true to form providing all the chills, thrills and man on man action that hard-boiled Decoteau fans have come to expect.

Nanaimo is where Decoteau calls home and is proud to be a citizen of the Great White North. As an ex-pat, he was lured by a greater volume of work opportunities in Canada as well as our socialist benefits and the right to love freely, stating that the legalization of gay marriage was a factor in his decision to choose our Home and Native Land over the Land of the Brave.

Out TV will be summoning ten films from the crypt for their annual David Decoteau Halloween Film Fest this month. With special introductions by David, you'll gain an insight into the mind and work of the King of Homoerotic Horror.



Happy Halloween

Charlie David is an actor, writer and co-host of *Bump!* on OUTtv.

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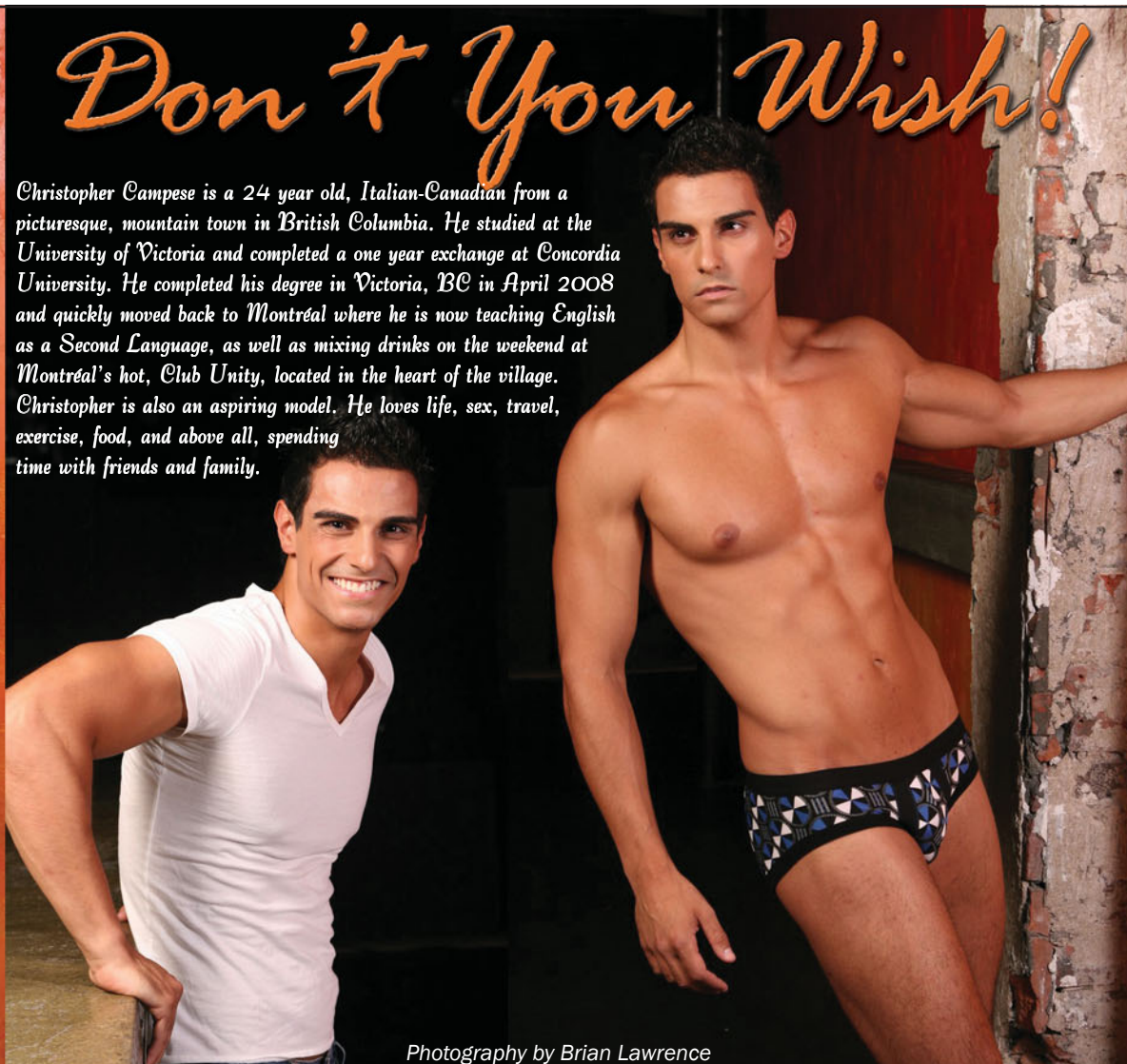
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Chris



Christopher Campese is a 24 year old, Italian-Canadian from a picturesque, mountain town in British Columbia. He studied at the University of Victoria and completed a one year exchange at Concordia University. He completed his degree in Victoria, BC in April 2008 and quickly moved back to Montréal where he is now teaching English as a Second Language, as well as mixing drinks on the weekend at Montréal's hot, Club Unity, located in the heart of the village. Christopher is also an aspiring model. He loves life, sex, travel, exercise, food, and above all, spending time with friends and family.

Photography by Brian Lawrence

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Let's p.l.a.y

Until lately, Edmonton has always been the city where a bar that appeals to almost everyone, regardless of sexual stripe, has existed.



Flashback and the Roost both set the bar for long-term community service. Within those walls, every letter of the alphabet soup of sexual diversity could play. Lesbians enjoyed drag shows. Twinks served cocktails to bears. Drag, of both the Queen and King variety, often shared the same stage on the same night. Queer folks dragged their straight compatriots to see how the other ten per cent lived. And on nights like Halloween and New Year's Eve, every LGBTQQ within the city limits and beyond could potentially make an appearance.



Enter Play, the newest player on the Edmonton nightclub stage. Seeing a literal gap in the Alberta nightclubbing scene, a gay businessman has spearheaded a new nightclub whose mission is to appeal to the entire Queer community.



Play Nightclub Manager, Corey Wyness, has experienced community—in Calgary. A self-confessed “318 boy”, he took part in the Calgary community on many levels, from Pride involvement to patronizing the big-city club atmosphere of dance clubs.

“I miss 318, and I miss Boystown. And one of my other favourite places to play was The Roost. All of those clubs served a larger community, and played an important role, not just as bars, but as hubs of the community.”

The demise of these grand and long-serving bars has been noticed by both cities. Even the dailies in both Edmonton and Calgary felt compelled to report: was the very nature of the Queer community changing? Did we need bars like that anymore?



Wyness says, “I miss that flavour. There are so many young people coming out and I want them to have that same experience—that sense of ‘Wow! It’s a gay world!’”

Play Nightclub is located on Edmonton’s Boardwalk, a prominent and historic strip of heritage buildings. “The building we are in is over 100 years old, so there’s all this beautiful brick and wood.” The club, attempting again to appeal to all, has both a dance floor aspect and a quieter lounge.

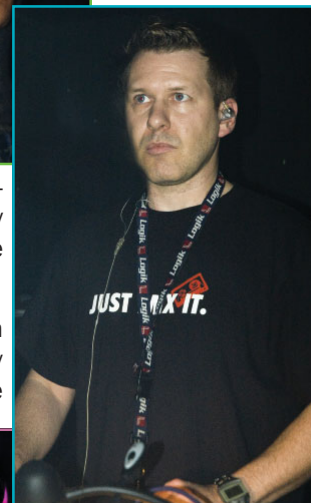


Of course, I want to know what the set-up is for the Queens. Wyness laughs, “We’ve already built a dressing room. With a sink. And a little change booth for the shyer girls.” There are two performing stages (a small one and a larger, portable stage), but Wyness stresses that the club will be hosting many open stages as well as drag showcases.



“I’ve been using the word pan-sexual to describe the crowd Play would strive for. I want everyone to feel comfortable.”

At every turn, the focus is on community—from community areas for groups and clubs to use



as meeting spaces, to full-on involvement with the Imperial Court, the Pride Centre, the Pride committee, helping with networking and fundraising—even striving to build between the communities of Edmonton and Calgary, like the grand old clubs Flashback and the Parkside Continental.

“A club is a perfect venue to be that kind of bridge. Community groups can set up booths, get their word out. Edmonton and Calgary are not that far apart.”

“I think a club has to change as the community changes. If we can support the changes that the Queer population is going through, I’m sure they will support us. We just have to listen to what people are saying.” ▼



By Darrin Hagen

Darrin is an Edmonton based artist, actor and freelance writer.

p.l.a.y
NIGHT CLUB

Upcoming PLAY events:

The LOVE Weekend —a three day party series in Edmonton over the Thanksgiving long weekend

- Meet Titan Pornstar Jake Deckard and special show by Dr. Brian, the sex therapist, on Friday, October 10
- Seduction Saturday—Special Show by members of the capital city burlesque troupe, Saturday, October 11
- Pure:Love Sunday, October 12—with Super Sexy DJ Nick Bertossi from Vancouver

It's a Small (Gay) World After All



Whoever said that gays are taking over the world was right. Or at least a few steps closer with the inception of OUT Adventures. The lovechild of Robert Sharp and his partner—both in business and at home—Steven Larkin, this new company offers adventure travel exclusively to the GLBT community.

Homegrown in Calgary, Robert followed his heart to Toronto after meeting Steven five years ago. Together they toured the world. However, each time they'd return feeling there was a void in the travel

"We wanted to offer a safe, comfortable travel experience for people like us. There were the gay cruises and resorts, but nothing that satisfied our adventurous spirit."

market. Never one hundred percent comfortable holding hands or kissing in public while other straight couples were snapping photos, they decided to address the issue by starting their own company.

"We wanted to offer a safe, comfortable travel experience for people like us," says Robert. "There were the gay cruises and resorts, but nothing that satisfied our adventurous spirit."

With trips from Swaziland to Rio, adventurous it is indeed. The company's focus is on small intimate groups. No, not that kind of intimate. But the laundry list of why they're a unique and green travel choice goes on and on: eco-friendly and sustainable tourism; employing local resources; trips to all seven continents; and affordability. A high-flying homo couldn't ask for more.

So pack your facial products, tell the bar tenders you won't be seeing them for a while, and brush up on your foreign pick up lines. OUT Adventures is ready to show you how big and gay the world can really be. ▼

For more information on specific adventures, visit www.out-adventures.com.

By Paul Fung
Freelance Writer



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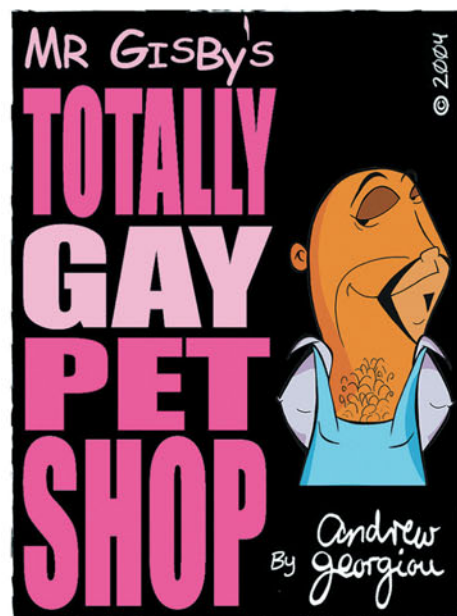
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October Theatrical Releases

Evil is upon us in the month of October; filled with darkness, scandal, ominous shadows, and evil twins. The only question remains what form should you expect to experience all this fright? Hollywood Theatrical Releases—that's which form.

Starting with the evil clones of past successful movies, everything from your inspiration first "black football star" movie in *The Express* (Remember the Titans), to a duo of awkward teen comedy's with Nick and Norah's *Infinite Playlist* (Juno) and sex drive in which a group of teens go on a cross country road trip (*Road Trip*).

After the evil clones come the spooky trailing shadows, original film ideas smeared into gut-wrenching trilogies of disappointment. Halloween just wouldn't be Halloween without a new "Saw" film, would it? Well, that seems to be the trend lately—welcome Saw V. Although the Saw series is filled with overly graphic scenery and gore, the other trilogy is even harder on the stomach: *High School Musical 3*.

October 3:

Nick and Norah's *Infinite Playlist*
The Express
How to Lose Friends and Alienate People
Blindness

October 10:

Body of Lies
Quarantine

October 17:

Sex Drive
Max Payne
Secret Life of Bees

October 24:

High School Musical 3
Saw V
Pride and Glory

October 31:

Zack and Miri Make a Porno

November 18:

The Gay Bed & Breakfast of Terror

And now, a quick look at some Gay and Lesbian Horror DVDs:



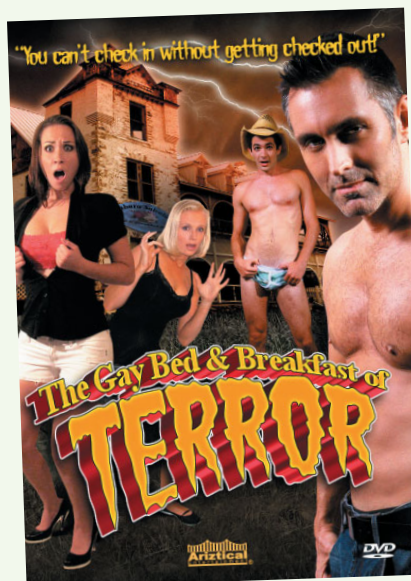
Dante's Cove is a soap opera and horror mixture TV series entering into its 4th season in 2009. Taking place in an alternative universe, the premise of the series is a religion or belief structure called "Tresum" a powerful, multifaceted source of supernatural powers, be that witch craft, shadow magic etc. What makes this show stand out from the rest is the explicit nudity and sex scenes involving both the hunky gay characters and the sultry sexy female characters as well.



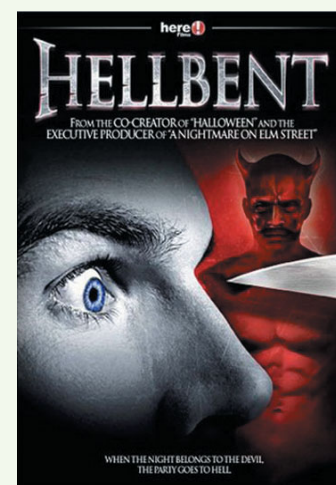
Hot on the heels of the success of *Dante's Cove* is the spin off series **The Lair**, set in the same alternate universe as *Dante's Cove*, *The Lair* is a TV series focused on a private gay club run by hunky vampires. The club is used to bring in new young blood on a regular basis. Expect the same level of nudity and sexy cast members in *The Lair* as you would in *Dante's Cove*.

The Gay Bed & Breakfast of Terror

On the eve of the biggest gay party weekend of the year, and not having made advance reservations, five "couples" find themselves having to make accommodations far from the city. What should have been the giggest party of the year quickly turns into every GLBT's worst nightmare. OK straights would not like it either! Sex, lies, murder and mincemeat pie... not a good combo for anyone. Totally tongue-in-cheek, this hysterically funny and sexy offering is a must see for queer horror fans! DVD Release date however is post Halloween - November 18th.



Hellbent



Taking place at the famed West Hollywood Carnival, there is a serial killer on the loose. A group of four gay friends will have to fight for their lives to make it through a night where flamboyant costumes, beautiful people, rugs, music, dancing, and sex are everywhere.

A wild, relentless ride that combines winning and appealing characters, unexpected surprises, and shocking scares, **HELLBENT** is a classic for the horror genre.

"Pulsating with a kind of heightened fear tinged fascination

one might experience from a hot, sexy hook-up suddenly turning ominous, it makes for one eye-popping thrill ride!"



Have a **GOULISH** Halloween!

Jace Colbert has written for, and worked within, the entertainment industry for the past ten years.

Ottawa Folk Festival

August 17 at Britannia Park

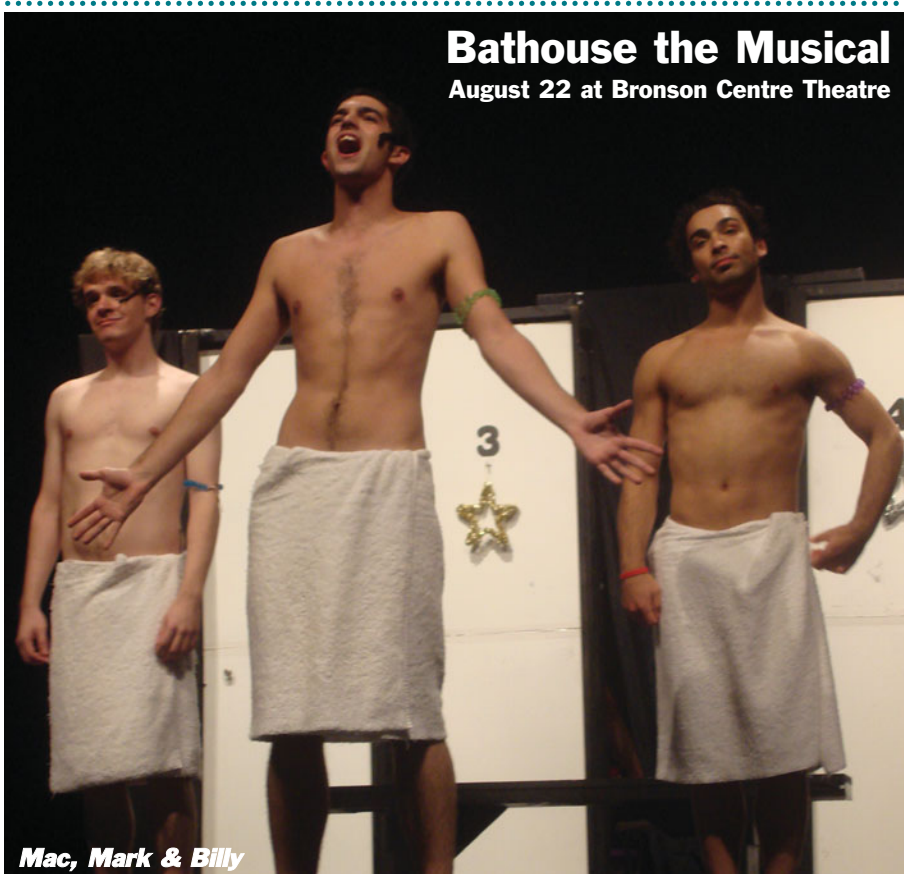


Rufus Wainwright

Planning an event in Ottawa? Contact Ian at madgoat@gmail.com and he'll see about covering it in Out & About.

Bathhouse the Musical

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Mac, Mark & Billy

Wizard of Oz

September 9 on Bank St.



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LOUNGE

Bare-chested Bowtie Pasta

Well here we are, moving into the fall. With glow of the summer sun fading fast I thought something with harvest vegetables would be appropriate! This dish is served over bowtie pasta, so invite some hot beefy boyz over, get them shirtless, and serve it to them.

The Fun Part:

Here is some fun information that my cats and I found about our choice of pasta.

Farfalle is a type of pasta. Commonly known as "bow-tie pasta," the name is derived from the Italian word *farfalla* (butterfly). The "e" at the end of the word is the Italian feminine plural ending, making the meaning of the word "butterflies". It is rumoured that big tough boyz really like butterflies. And we all know what the pumping iron boyz look like, now don't we?

So get the crew over early and work up a sweat prepping your vegetables.

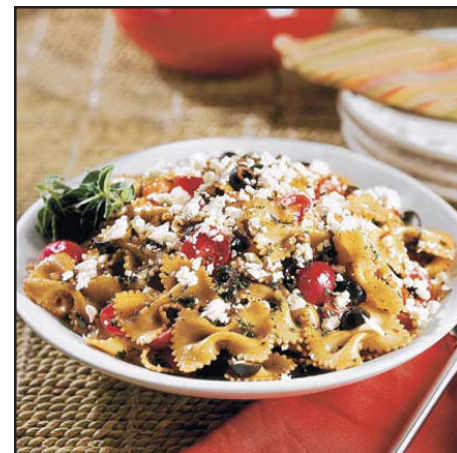


What You'll Need:

- 375 grams of medium bow tie pasta. I use Catelli.
- 20 cherry tomatoes
- 2 green peppers
- 150 mL or 2/3 of a cup of chopped red onion
- 500 mL or 2 cups of shredded cheddar or mozzarella cheese or use a cup of each
- 100 mL or 1/2 of a cup chopped fresh parsley
- 250mL or 1 cup of bottled Italian salad dressing

What to do:

Quarter the cherry tomatoes. Dice the green peppers. Cook the pasta like this: Use one litre of water for every one hundred grams of pasta. Bring the water to a rapid boil. Now is the time to get those shirts off. Add the pasta and stir until the water returns to a boil. Cock, sorry cook stirring occasionally, for about fourteen minutes. Continue to examine what was under the shirts of the your guests. Drain



the pasta in a red or blue collander. Rinse the pasta in cold water to cool; then drain well. Combine your cooked bow ties with all your other ingrediensts. Mix it up really well!! Cover the combined pasta vegetables, cheese and herb mixture sald dressing and let stand for thirty minutes to blend the flavours all together. Toss gently but with flare!

This dish serves six hunky boyz.

Make sure you have red and blue bow ties for the boyz to wear while they eat! The real bow ties can be on the table waiting with bottles of Chianti as you get the shirtless guys to serve you this great fall dinner. ▼

By Allan Graham
Cooking for Boyz
— Gastronomic Porn for the Urban Male

Out & about

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Bianca & Deva Dave



Chris, Rodney & Howie

Planning an event in Calgary?
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and he'll see about covering it in Out & About.



AIDS Walk September 21



Monica, Shelby, Mike, Jerry, Steve & Killian

Howie, Amanda & Jarrod



Mark Randall (2008 Roger LeBlanc Award Winner) & Blaine



Bruce

Out & about

EDMONTON

Play Nightclub Opening

September 19 at Play



Ross & Justin

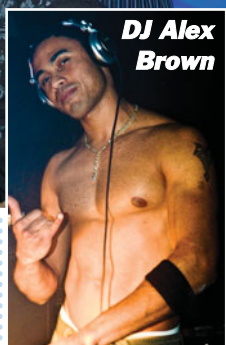


Owner Bob Long

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DJ Alex Brown



Planning an event in Edmonton? Contact jackson@jacksonphotografix.com and he'll see about covering it in Out & About. Photos by: jacksonphotografix.com

AIDS Walk

September 21

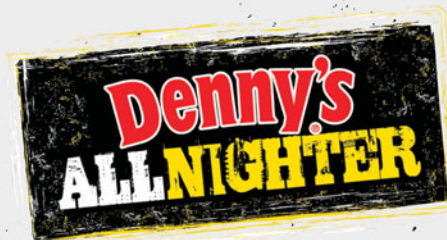
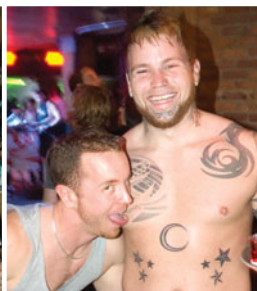


Bruce & MLA Laurie Blakeman



Pure Party

September 20 at Play



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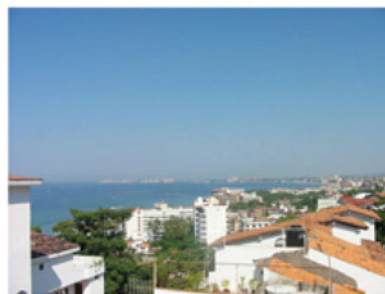
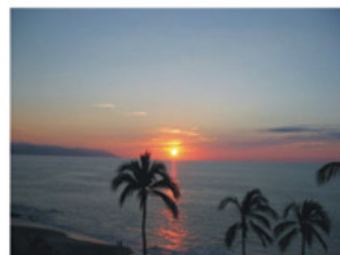
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OCTOBER Horoscope

Happy National Coming Out Month! October is no time to sit and wait for the world to knock. Saturn, the planet of life lessons, opposes explosive retro Uranus. Anything and everything can happen now. 'Bout time!

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Even though you may feel like a mangy rat on an ever-increasing treadmill, it is time to jump off and make life happen. October and its "no compromising" energies command you to follow your gut and make dramatic changes. Of course, it might be a good idea to look before you leap. Consider all options first—so we won't have to peel you off the sidewalk with a spatula later, gay Ram.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

It's been hard to manage expectations and do the organizing when everyone else is partying down. October brings the realization that life doesn't have to be serious. Light-hearted things don't need a payoff. Sometimes just "being" is reward enough. So see and be seen in all the right circles queer Bull. And if you find a few squares in the bunch, you might just round them out.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Pink Twins have been schlepping themselves from home to work and back again for so long that they can no longer see the difference between the two. This has got to stop. October is the time to find the right balance in all the areas of your life. You may be surprised at how easy it is to relegate something on to the bottom shelf and feel and calm. No, not home!

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

If you have found yourself apologizing frequently because of unintentional verbal gaffs, this is the month to step back and listen to yourself. Try to assess how you are communicating to others. Gay Crabs may just find that with a small tweak here and there you can command the masses and foment revolution. This may not be a bad thing, unless you prefer the quiet life. Then shhh.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

How much are you willing to spend to get what you really want this October? Proud Lions are particularly careful with their loot, but now a gaudy, useless bauble or two can tempt them. Heck, life is too short to scrimp all the time. Sometimes you have to let loose and splurge. Be sure that it has a large payoff at the end instead of a large payout in the beginning.

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Your general lack of self-confidence will come in for a full reappraisal this October. Sure, there is a time and place to let your ego inflate but what is the time and where is the place? Thankfully partners and those with whom you share a close relationship show you how wonderful you are. Bottle it and sip from it during the dry season.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Proud Libras cannot only discern friend from foe in the workplace, they can now maneuver between the senior and staff levels gracefully. How can you harness this power effectively? Truthfully, you won't quite know this October. But you will learn what motivates each side. Use this in future negotiations and upheavals. Your cream will rise before it curdles.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

You are running in a serious crowd, queer Scorp. Are you sure they really know how to let loose and have a good time? October will be the month to test many of your platonic relationships. Do they give you everything you need? If not, attempt to make them better and or even seek new ones. Surprises are in store if you make yourself open and available. So what's new?

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

If you have had trouble tamping down on stray corporate rumors, this is the time when you can better manage it. Not only are you full of surprises that can engage and impress the elite, you can also shift your attention and reprioritize quickly. This will make you very valuable in certain circles and somewhat scattered in others. Circle wisely.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

Pink Caps might have avoided extensive travel, but October offers you the chance to experience some new and very interesting things far afield. How much courage do you possess? The world will not only seem vast, it will also seem chaotic. There are times to embrace change and see what the fates deliver. Don't sit at home and wait for the delivery.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

There is something sultry and sexy about you this October, Aqueerius. You appear to be on fire. Could it be just a mask that hides your lack of self-confidence? Whatever works. Before you know it, your facade falls away and you deal with your fears directly. The great benefit to this is that you will have your choice of admirers and even a benefactor. Choose the latter!

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Relationships can reach a turning point this October and this will be seen as a relief to you no matter which direction it goes after that. Guppies love having a certain someone. It is wonderful when that person deserves your love and attention. Use this time to craft the relationship that you deserve rather than the one you think you want. Yes, there is a difference.

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Lichtenstein's blog www.thestarryeye.typepad.com covers everything new age. Her astrology book *HerScopes: A Guide To Astrology For Lesbians* is an international sensation. Buy it and feel the vibration.

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